(b) whether tribals are basically dependent on agricultural land and therefore whether Government are aware of the fact that Mayurbhanj, Keonjhar, Keroput and Sundargarh hilly tribal district have source of big irrigation project; and

(c) if so.what steps are being taken by Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF WATER RESOURCES (PROF. SAIF-UD-DIN SOZ): (a) Irrigation is a State subject and the planning, execution, funding, operation and maintenance of irrigation projects are primarily the responsibility of the State Governments based on their priorities. Ministry of Tribal Affairs, Central Government has launched a special programme to provide 100 per cent financial assistance to the States for taking up minor irrigation schemes for Schedule Tribe land. During 2005-06 an amount of Rs.50 crore was released under this programme for providing minor irrigation facilities in the tribal areas of the States of Andhra Pradesh, Chhattisgarh, Gujarat, Madhya Pradesh, Mizoram, Orissa, Tamil Nadu and West Bengal. During 2006-07, the Planning Commission has earmarked Rs. 150 crore for Minor Irrigation of tribal owned lands.

(b) and (c) Yes Sir. The Mayurbhanj, Keonjhar, Keroput and Sundargarh districts of Orissa form part of erstwhile Kalahandi, Bolangir and Keroput (KBK) districts having tribal population. As such, while providing central assistance under the Accelerated Irrigation Benefits Programme(AIBP) being implemented by the Central Government since 1996-97 for expeditious completion of ongoing approved irrigation projects, the KBK districts of Orissa are considered at par with special category States and the Central assistance is provided for major/medium/ minor irrigation projects of these districts in the ratio of 90% grant and 10% loan.

Water Resources Project in Tamil Nadu

3321. SHRI E.M. SUDARSANA NATCHIAPPAN: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to take up Water Resource Project in Tamil Nadu; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and the assistance proposed to be provided by the Central Government during the current year for completion of the project?

THE MINISTER OF WATER RESOURCES (PROF. SAIF-UD-DIN SOZ): (a) and (b) Irrigation is a State subject and the planning, execution, funding, operation and maintenance of Irrigation projects are primarily the responsibility of the State Governments based on their priorities. The Union Government has not proposed to take up Water Resource Project in Tamil Nadu. However, under the Pilot Scheme "National Project for repair, renovation and restoration of water bodies directly linked to Agriculture", two district projects namely Sivgangai and Villupuram were approved in 2004-05 and Central share of Rs. 3.97 crore has been released during 2005-06 to the Government of Tamil Nadu. The balance amount of the Central share will be released to the State Government based on the utilization certificate furnished by the State Government.

Completion of Irrigation Projects in Andhra Pradesh

3322. SHRI NANDI YELLAIAH: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the progress made on various fast track irrigation projects introduced in the year 2002 particularly in Andhra Pradesh for completing selected projects within one yar;

(b) whether the work on these projects is conforming to the time-schedule;

(c) if so, the details in this regard; project-wise; and

(d) if not, the reasons for delay in completion of these projects?

THE MINISTER OF WATER RESOURCES (PROF. SAIF-UD-DIN SOZ): (a) to (d) Atotal of 42 major and medium irrigation projects/projects components including 10 in Andhra Pradesh have been provided Central Loan Assistance/Grant under Fast Track Programme of Accelerated Irrigation Benefits Programme since 2001-02 to 2005-06. Out of these 16 have already been completed upto 2005-06. The remaining are ongoing. The details of the projects are given in the enclosed statement. (See below). The important reasons for delay in completion of the projects are inadequate provision of funds in State Budget, delay in transfer of funds to the executing agencies and delay in land acquisition along the Canals.